Quarterly Population Report

Second Quarter 2017

Interprovincial Outflows Eases Population Growth[1]

Continued net outflows of interprovincial migrants moderated population growth in the second quarter, despite strong natural increase and international migration. Alberta's population growth dipped below the national average this quarter, with the lowest second quarter year-over-year growth since 1988. Despite slower growth, Alberta added close to 50,000 people since July 1st of last year.

As of July 1st, 2017, Alberta was home to an estimated 4,286,134 residents. The province grew by 0.32% this quarter, an addition of 13,736 people from April 1st. Net outflows of interprovincial migrants (-0.12%) tempered the province's growth, while net international migration added 0.24%, and natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for 0.19%.

On a year-over-year basis, Alberta's population growth fell below the national average for the first time since the third quarter of 1989, with Alberta growing by 1.17%[2] compared to 1.22% nationally (Table 1). Of the provinces, PEI and Ontario had the highest annual growth this quarter (1.71% and 1.55%, respectively), while Alberta was in the middle of the provincial pack (Table 2).

In absolute terms, Alberta added 49,758 new residents over the past year. Despite the large addition, annual census year growth was below last year's rate, and growth has been slowing since 2013 (Figure 1).

Revisions

Population estimates and the components of growth are revised annually with the availability of recent updates to data sources, or additional data sources only available on an annual basis. This release contained downward revisions to Alberta's population back to October 1, 2012. The component with the largest revision was net interprovincial migration in 2015-2016, which was

1 *All data are from Statistics Canada. Estimates from 2007–2017 are based on the 2011 Census adjusted for net census undercount and incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves. All estimates are subject to revision.*

2 This growth represents year-over-year variation (July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2017).

Table 1: Population & Growth Rates Canada and Alberta

Population			Yearly Growth Rate		
1-Jul	Canada	Alberta	1-Jul	Canada	Alberta
2012	34,750,545	3,880,755	2012	1.19%	2.39%
2013	35,152,370	3,997,950	2013	1.16%	3.02%
2014	35,535,348	4,108,416	2014	1.09%	2.76%
2015	35,832,513	4,177,527	2015	0.84%	1.68%
2016	36,264,604	4,236,376	2016	1.21%	1.41%
2017	36,708,083	4,286,134	2017	1.22%	1.17%

Figure 1: Alberta Components of Population Change, 2nd Quarter

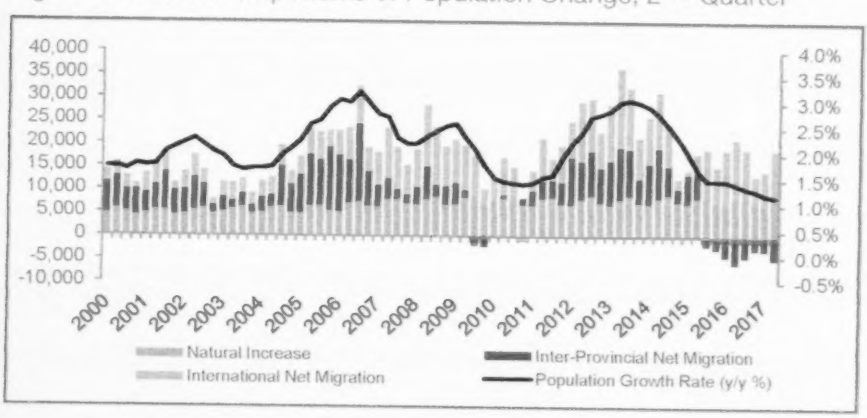

Table 2: Population of Provinces/ Territories as of July 1, 2017 and Growth Rates since July 1, 2016

	Population	Growth Rate (y/y)
Canada	36,708,083	1.22%
NL	528,817	-0.28%
PE	152,021	1.71%
NS	953,869	0.55%
NB	759,655	0.30%
QC	8,394,034	0.87%
ON	14,193,384	1.55%
MB	1,338,109	1.52%
SK	1,163,925	1.34%
AB	4,286,134	1.17%
BC	4,817,160	1.25%
YT	38,459	0.98%
NW	44,520	-0.22%
NV	37,996	2.20%

revised down significantly from preliminary estimates released last year (from -2,877 to -15,108). This revision lowered the 2015-2016 population growth from 1.8% to 1.4%.

Migration

Weighed on by net outflows of interprovincial migrants, total net migration added 5,486 new residents in the second quarter (Table 4). Despite robust net international migration, net interprovincial outflows led to the lowest second quarter net migration since 1995.

Interprovincial migration

Interprovincial migration is highly reactive to economic conditions, although it tends to respond with a lag. Despite a rebound in Alberta's economy, this quarter saw continued net losses to other parts of the country, rounding out two straight years of net outflows. Alberta lost -4,914 people this quarter, the largest net outflow in the country, followed by Quebec (-3,377), Manitoba (-1,891) and Saskatchewan (-1,814) (Table 3). Ontario and British Columbia experienced the biggest net inflows at 7,266 and 5,034, respectively.

What Alberta lost, others gained; the largest net outflows were to BC (-3,514) and Ontario (-1,648) (Map 1). This was the thirteenth consecutive quarter of net losses from Alberta to British Columbia, and the seventh straight to Ontario.

Alberta's net outflow in census year 2016-2017 was -15,131, slightly lower than that of the previous year (-15,108). Net interprovincial losses this year were the highest in nearly 30 years (-23,223 in 1987-1988).

Net interprovincial migration is always a balance of in-flows to and out-flows from a region. Changes in the magnitude of these two components provides additional information on the net movements. Alberta's net interprovincial outflows of the past two years were mainly due to fewer in-migrants (down 25,900 compared with 2014/2015) rather than more out-migrants (up 10,800 compared with 2014/2015).

Net International Migration

Although still elevated, immigration levels softened slightly from April to June. Immigration to the province was 12,304, down about 3,000 from the same quarter in the previous year (Table 4). This follows the national story, where immigration levels fell from 88,289 to 78,021 over the same period.

Alberta's share of immigrants to Canada was down to 15.8% this quarter, the lowest second quarter share of the past four years. Ontario and Quebec had the highest shares in the country (34.9% and 20.6%, respectively), while Alberta was third highest.

Annually, immigration to the province was the second highest on record, down slightly from the high of the previous year (44,091, and 57,839, respectively) (Table 4). This was the same pattern seen for Canada (272,666 and 323,173, respectively).

Alberta continued to see net outflows of non-permanent residents (NPRs) this quarter (-971), although these losses have tapered off compared to the same quarter in the previous two years. Alberta bucked the national trend, as all other jurisdictions had net inflows. Ontario saw the largest influx at 26,017, followed by Quebec with 11,963.

As of July 1st, the province was home to about 76,000 non-permanent residents. At 8.5% of the national total, Alberta had the fourth highest share. This is down from a peak of 14.8% as of April 1st, 2014.

Natural increase

Natural increase continued to be a strong driver of population growth in the province. In the second quarter of 2017, Alberta experienced a natural increase of 8,250, the result of 14,557 births and 6,307 deaths. Nationally, Alberta continued to have the highest natural growth rate of the provinces (0.19%), a 36 year long trend.

Population Age Structure

While strong interprovincial migration into Alberta in the recent past helped slow population aging, interprovincial net outflows from the province have accelerated the aging of the province. Alberta remained the youngest of the provinces, but aged over the past year, its median age increasing from 36.4 in 2016 to 36.7 in 2017. Only Newfoundland had a higher increase (0.4 years), while Alberta kept pace with New Brunswick (0.3 years).

Despite aging, Alberta remained the most youthful province. About 7 out of 10 people in the province were of working age (15-64), slightly above the national rate of 67%. Alberta also had the lowest proportion of seniors (65+) of all the provinces at 12.4%.

Contact

Lisa Zaporzan 780.427.8891

Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta April 1 to June 30, 2017

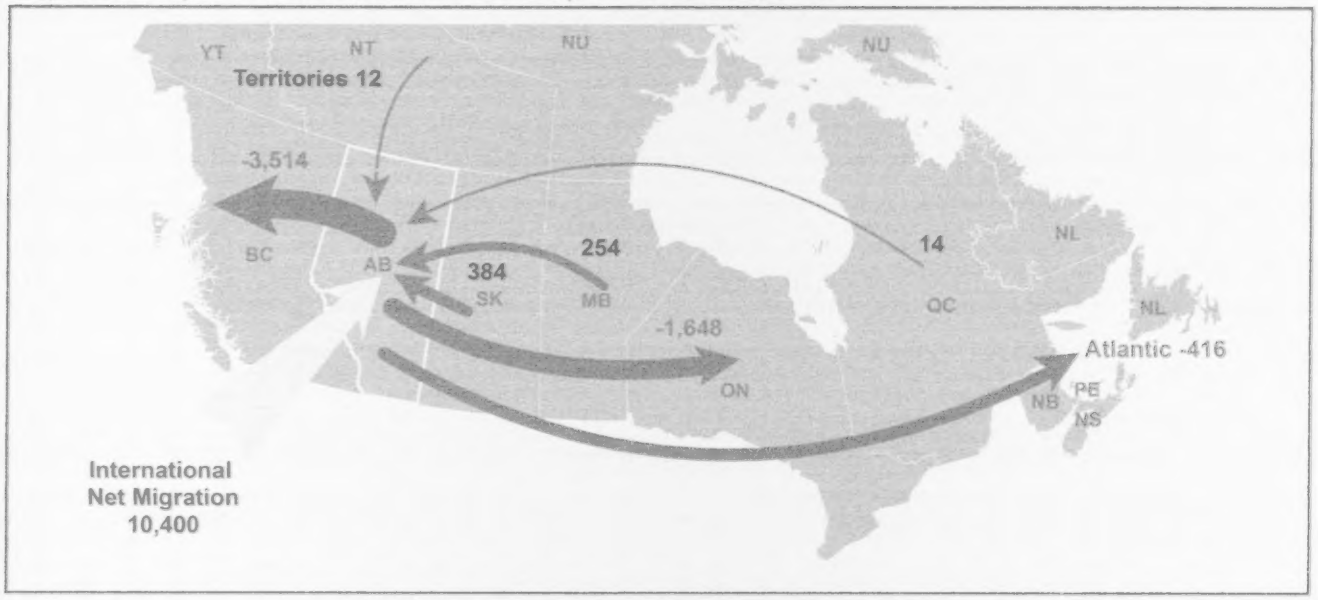

Table 3: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants April 1 to June 30, 2017

Origin	Destination												
	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NW	NV
NL	0	118	436	138	195	1,110	63	34	617	228	0	0	37
PE	18	0	155	156	56	640	9	35	192	100	4	12	14
NS	234	257	0	737	282	1,996	136	80	1,100	510	15	12	69
NB	199	146	690	0	448	1,167	104	137	582	182	20	33	17
QC	155	78	340	610	0	7,531	181	177	1,139	1,291	21	36	86
ON	677	572	1,901	942	4,379	0	1,066	883	5,223	5,596	198	109	233
MB	57	0	108	85	229	1,981	0	706	1,244	1,392	11	64	29
SK	32	14	68	74	148	1,635	718	0	3,230	1,735	24	23	22
AB	875	138	1,274	620	1,125	6,871	990	2,846	0	10,711	87	248	74
BC	98	117	594	348	1,259	5,694	645	886	7,197	0	78	74	52
YT	5	18	46	0	15	98	28	41	75	202	0	34	0
NW	48	13	71	25	60	167	26	51	296	120	40	0	41
NV	11	14	40	6	72	155	49	33	50	9	24	61	0

	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NW	NV
IN	2,409	1,485	5,723	3,741	8,268	29,045	4,015	5,909	20,945	22,076	522	706	674
OUT	2,976	1,391	5,428	3,725	11,645	21,779	5,906	7,723	25,859	17,042	562	958	524
NET	-567	94	295	16	-3,377	7,266	-1,891	-1,814	-4,914	5,034	-40	-252	150

Q2 2017	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NW	NV
Outflow to AB	617	192	1100	582	1139	5223	1244	3230	0	7197	75	296	50
Inflow from AB	875	138	1274	620	1125	6871	990	2846	0	10711	87	248	74
Net Flow to AB	-258	54	-174	-38	14	-1,648	254	384	0	-3,514	-12	48	-24

Table 4: Alberta Components of Growth by Quarter

Quarters in Census Year	Interprovincial Migration[1]			International Migration						Total	Vital Events		Total[4]
	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents[2]	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net[2][3]	Total Net Migration	Births	Deaths	Sum of Components
2013-2014													
Jul-Sep	25,511	15,277	10,234	9,156	4,824	2,492	643	2,313	13,158	23,392	14,093	5,440	32,045
Oct-Dec	16,387	10,900	5,487	8,806	1,091	1,595	545	800	8,557	14,044	13,187	5,945	21,286
Jan-Mar	22,290	13,522	8,768	10,351	1,385	1,794	548	782	10,176	18,944	13,161	6,168	25,937
Apr-Jun	31,613	20,720	10,893	12,753	263	1,823	550	1,435	12,078	22,971	13,957	5,730	31,198
Total	87,307	51,925	35,382	41,066	7,563	7,704	2,286	5,330	43,969	79,351	54,398	23,283	110,466
2014-2015													
Jul-Sep	22,189	15,803	6,386	10,283	14	2,973	665	2,242	8,901	15,287	14,587	5,644	24,230
Oct-Dec	14,650	11,574	3,076	9,150	-5,614	1,777	529	838	2,068	5,144	13,598	6,164	12,578
Jan-Mar	22,849	16,367	6,482	8,203	-5,855	1,767	545	768	804	7,286	13,509	6,391	14,404
Apr-Jun	29,786	24,136	5,650	11,970	-7,127	1,979	546	1,603	3,921	9,571	14,257	5,929	17,899
Total	81,540	59,946	21,594	39,606	-18,582	8,496	2,285	5,451	15,694	37,288	55,951	24,128	69,111
2015-2016													
Jul-Sep	19,080	21,077	-1,997	14,172	-2,836	2,984	665	2,242	9,929	7,932	14,825	5,835	16,922
Oct-Dec	10,187	12,898	-2,711	12,876	-3,631	1,782	529	838	7,772	5,061	13,786	6,369	12,478
Jan-Mar	15,118	19,508	-4,390	15,366	-2,138	1,773	545	768	11,678	7,288	13,700	6,604	14,384
Apr-Jun	19,513	25,523	-6,010	15,425	-1,773	1,986	546	1,603	12,723	6,713	14,475	6,123	15,065
Total	56,978	72,086	-15,108	57,839	-10,378	8,525	2,285	5,451	42,102	26,994	56,786	24,931	58,849
2016-2017													
Jul-Sep	18,097	22,518	-4,421	10,074	1,178	2,989	665	2,242	9,840	5,419	15,046	6,025	14,440
Oct-Dec	9,810	12,664	-2,854	8,349	-1,101	1,786	530	838	5,770	2,916	13,956	6,572	10,300
Jan-Mar	15,762	18,704	-2,942	13,364	-4,610	1,777	545	768	7,200	4,258	13,835	6,811	11,282
Apr-Jun	20,945	25,859	-4,914	12,304	-971	1,990	546	1,603	10,400	5,486	14,557	6,307	13,736
Total	55,661	70,792	-15,131	44,091	-5,504	8,542	2,286	5,451	33,210	18,079	57,394	25,715	49,758

[1] The sum of quarterly in- and out- interprovincial migrants may not to be equal to annual interprovincial in- and out- migrants from 2011 onwards. It is however possible to add quarterly net interprovincial migration estimates to calculate annual estimates.

[2] Estimates of Non-Permanent Residents (NPRs) represent the number of '...persons who are lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a temporary resident permit, along with members of their family living with them. Non-Permanent Residents include foreign workers, foreign students, the humanitarian population and other temporary residents. The humanitarian population includes refugee claimants and temporary residents who are allowed to remain in Canada on humanitarian grounds and are not categorized as either foreign workers or foreign students." (Statistics Canada)

[3] Includes NPRs

[4] The sum of the components may not equal the quarterly population change due to differences in the methods used to derive intercensal and postcensal population estimates.